

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129017

16

ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EB-03 L-01 SCS-01 SCA-01

/027 R

DRAFTED BY TREASURY:DFOSTER:EM

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

EA/PHL:RTWILLNER

IRS:LSTEIN (DRAFT)

TREASURY/GC:RALBRECHT (DRAFT)

TREASURY:ASST.SECY. WALKER

----- 078041

P 252336Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN,RP

SUBJECT: LINNIE JANE HODGES ESTATE

REF; (A) MANILA 7100 (B) STATE 005085

1. REGRET THAT THE FILIPINOS ARE CONFUSED WITH RESPECT TO THE HODGES CASE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE SEEMS TO BE SIMILAR CONFUSION ON THE U.S. SIDE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALKER THOUGHT THAT IT WAS CLEAR IN THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WOULD NOT TELL VIRATA WHAT HIS RECOMMENDATION WAS UNLESS VIRATA REFUSED TO ACT ON THE BASIS OF COURSE PREFERRED BY TREASURY. PARA ONE OF REFTTEL A INDICATES THAT VIRATA WAS AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSED LETTER, WHILE PARA 4 INDICATES AMBASSADOR TOLD VIRATA HE WOULD RECOMMEND CONTRARYWISE TO TREASURY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 129017

2. TREASURY HAS PREVIOUSLY REJECTED THE COURSE BEING RECOMMENDED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN. TREASURY'S CHIEF COUNSEL BELIEVES THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A LETTER ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT ENCLOSED WITH THE LETTER OF APRIL 1, 1976 FROM ALBRECHT TO VIRATA BE RECEIVED FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE FUNDS CAN BE RELEASED. AS INDICATED IN PARAS ONE AND TWO OF REFTEL B, TREASURY IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE MISREPRESENTATIONS TO THE

PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE THAT THERE WAS DUE THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE THE SUM OF DOLLARS 190,429.18 IN TAXES AND INTEREST, WHEREAS IN FACT ACTUAL TAX LIABILITIES WERE FAR LESS THAN THAT AMOUNT AND HAD BEEN PAID IN 1966.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING MENTIONED IN PARA 5 REFTEL A, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR SHOULD MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE REQUESTED LETTER FROM THE PHILIPPINES. THE KEY ASPECT OF THE LETTER IS THE LAST PARAGRAPH, WHEREIN GOP STATES IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSED REFUND TO TEXAS ADMINISTRATORS. TREASURY FEELS SUCH STATEMENT WOULD HELP TO MAKE CLEAR USG DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN EVASION OF PHILIPPINE LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

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